

In the Claims

1 – 46 Cancelled

47. (New) A towing member configured to be joined to a piece of baggage, the towing member comprising:

a non-extendable portion configured to be joined to a piece of baggage;

at least one arm having a distal end and a proximal end with a length therebetween, the arm operatively connected to the non-extendable portion at the proximal end, the arm being movable between extended and retracted positions such that the distal end is closer to the piece of baggage when the arm is in the retracted position than when the arm is in the extended position;

a towing handle pivotally connected to the distal end of the arm, the towing handle pivoting generally about and relative to the distal end of the arm; and

a locking mechanism located proximate the handle and the distal end of the arm, the locking mechanism being selectively moveable between a locked position and an unlocked position, wherein the locking mechanism prevents pivoting of the towing handle relative to the distal end of the arm when in the locked position and permits pivoting of the towing handle relative to the distal end of the arm when in the unlocked position.

48. (New) The towing member of claim 47, wherein the arm includes a curved portion that is received within the non-extendable portion when in the retracted position, the curved portion moving along a curved telescoping path between a retracted position and an extended

position, the distal end of the arm being positioned forward of the base and not positioned over the base when the arm is in the extended position.

49. (New) The towing member of claim 47, wherein the arm includes first and second curved portions, the first curved portion sliding into, and out of, the second curved portion along a curved telescoping path when the arm is moved between the extended and retracted positions.

50. (New) The towing member of claim 47, wherein the arm includes first and second curved portions that both sliding into, and out of, the non-extendable portion along a curved telescoping path when the arm is moved between the extended and retracted positions.

51. (New) The towing member of claim 47, wherein the at least one arm includes two curved arms spaced apart from one another and arranged side-by-side, the two curved arms each extending and retracting along the curved telescoping path between extended and retracted positions.

52. (New) The towing member of claim 47, wherein the non-extendable portion is configured to be located inside of a piece of luggage.

53. (New) The towing member of claim 47, wherein the non-extendable portion is configured to be located inside of a backpack.

54. (New) The towing member of claim 47, further comprising a release mechanism located proximate the towing handle and connected to the locking mechanism, the release mechanism being manually operated by a user to unlock the locking mechanism.

55. (New) The towing member of claim 47, wherein the towing handle has a hand grip portion containing a release button facing upward from the towing handle.

56. (New) The towing member of claim 47, wherein the arm has one of an elliptical, tubular and oval cross-section.

57. (New) The towing member of claim 47, wherein the towing handle is T-shaped and has a stem portion extending from a cross-bar, the locking mechanism being joined to the stem portion.

58. (New) The towing member of claim 47, wherein the locking mechanism includes locking protrusions that form a channel there between and a locking member that is releasable fit within the channel to prevent and permit pivotal motion between the arm and the towing handle.

59. (New) The towing member of claim 47, wherein the arm is uniformly curved along a complete length thereof from the proximal end to the distal end.

60. (New) The towing member of claim 47, further comprising a rigid base having a bottom portion and a pair of wheel wells on opposite ends thereof.

61. (New) A towing member configured to be joined to a piece of baggage, the towing member comprising:

a non-extendable portion configured to be joined to a piece of baggage;

at least one arm having a distal end and a proximal end with a length therebetween, the arm operatively connected to the non-extendable portion at the proximal end, the arm being movable between extended and retracted positions such that the distal end is closer to the piece of baggage when the arm is in the retracted position than when the arm is in the extended position;

a towing handle pivotally connected to the distal end of the arm, the towing handle pivoting generally about and relative to the distal end of the arm;

a locking mechanism located proximate the handle and the distal end of the arm, the locking mechanism being selectively moveable between a locked position and an unlocked position, wherein the locking mechanism prevents pivoting of the towing handle relative to the distal end of the arm when in the locked position and permits pivoting of the towing handle relative to the distal end of the arm when in the unlocked position; and

a release mechanism located proximate the handle, the release mechanism being configured and adapted to move the locking mechanism from the locked position to the unlocked position when the release mechanism is operated by a user.

62. (New) The towing member of claim 61, wherein the arm includes a curved portion that is received within the non-extendable portion when in the retracted position, the curved portion moving along a curved telescoping path between a retracted position and an extended position, the distal end of the arm being positioned forward of the base and not positioned over the base when the arm is in the extended position.

63. (New) The towing member of claim 61, wherein the arm includes first and second curved portions, the first curved portion sliding into, and out of, the second curved portion along a curved telescoping path when the arm is moved between the extended and retracted positions.

64. (New) The towing member of claim 61, wherein the arm includes first and second curved portions that both sliding into, and out of, the non-extendable portion along a curved telescoping path when the arm is moved between the extended and retracted positions.

65. (New) The towing member of claim 61, wherein the at least one arm includes two curved arms spaced apart from one another and arranged side-by-side, the two curved arms each extending and retracting along the curved telescoping path between extended and retracted positions.

66. (New) The towing member of claim 61, wherein the non-extendable portion is configured to be located inside of a piece of luggage.

67. (New) The towing member of claim 61, wherein the non-extendable portion is configured to be located inside of a backpack.

68. (New) The towing member of claim 61, wherein the towing handle has a hand grip portion and the release mechanism includes a release button provided on the hand grip facing upward from the towing handle.

69. (New) The towing member of claim 61, wherein the arm has one of an elliptical, tubular and oval cross-section.

70. (New) The towing member of claim 61, wherein the towing handle is T-shaped and has a stem portion extending from a cross-bar, the locking mechanism being joined to the stem portion.

71. (New) The towing member of claim 61, wherein the locking mechanism includes locking protrusions that form a channel there between and a locking member that is releasable fit within the channel to prevent and permit pivotal motion between the arm and the towing handle.

72. (New) The towing member of claim 61, wherein the arm is uniformly curved along a complete length thereof from the proximal end to the distal end.

73. (New) The towing member of claim 61, further comprising a rigid base having a bottom portion and a pair of wheel wells on opposite ends thereof.

78. (New) A towing member configured to be joined to a piece of baggage, the towing member comprising:

a towing handle;

a non-extendable portion; and

at least one curved arm slideably received within the non-extendable portion and movable relative to the non-extendable portion along a curved telescoping path between a retracted position and an extended position, the at least one arm having a distal end with the towing handle provided thereon, the towing handle being positioned forward of the base and not positioned over the base when the at least one arm is in the extended position, the at least one arm having a curved portion that is retracted into the non-extendable portion when in the retracted position.

79. (New) The towing member of claim 78, wherein the arm includes first and second curved portions, the first curved portion sliding into, and out of, the second curved portion along a curved telescoping path when the arm is moved between the extended and retracted positions.

80. (New) The towing member of claim 78, wherein the arm includes first and second curved portions that both sliding into, and out of, the non-extendable portion along a curved telescoping path when the arm is moved between the extended and retracted positions.

81. (New) The towing member of claim 78, wherein the at least one arm includes two curved arms spaced apart from one another and arranged side-by-side, the two curved arms each

extending and retracting along the curved telescoping path between extended and retracted positions.

82. (New) The towing member of claim 78, wherein the non-extendable portion is configured to be located inside of a piece of luggage.

83. (New) The towing member of claim 78, wherein the non-extendable portion is configured to be located inside of a backpack.

84. (New) The towing member of claim 78, wherein the towing handle is pivotally connected to the distal end of the arm, the towing handle pivoting generally about and relative to the distal end of the arm; and further comprising a locking mechanism located proximate the handle and the distal end of the arm, the locking mechanism being selectively moveable between a locked position and an unlocked position, wherein the locking mechanism prevents pivoting of the towing handle relative to the distal end of the arm when in the locked position and permits pivoting of the towing handle relative to the distal end of the arm when in the unlocked position.

85. (New) The towing member of claim 78, wherein the arm has one of an elliptical, tubular and oval cross-section.

86. (New) The towing member of claim 78, wherein the towing handle is T-shaped and has a stem portion extending from a cross-bar, the locking mechanism being joined to the stem portion.

87. (New) The towing member of claim 78, wherein the arm is uniformly curved along a complete length thereof from the proximal end to the distal end.

Express Mail No.: EV 734458240 US

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No.: 10759-159

88. (New) The towing member of claim 78, wherein the towing handle pivots 360 degrees about and relative to the distal end of the arm.